

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /106 W

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R 171400 Z APR 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 293

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 214

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH PROBLEM

1. WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS ADMIN OFFICER MAIN AND I HAVE SEPARATELY MADE FOUR DAY TRIPS TO NORTHERN IRAQ DURING WHICH WE WERE FREQUENTLY IN AREAS IN WHICH ARMED KURDISH AND GOI MILITARY PATROLS WERE BOTH IN EVIDENCE. GOI ROADBLOCKS EXISTED AT ENTRY TO ALL SIZEABLE TOWNS. ON OCCASION KURDISH ROADBLOCKS EXIST IN AREAS UNDER GOI CONTROL: E. G. NORTH OF SULAYMANIYAH NEAR LESSER ZAB; JUST WEST OF RAWANDUZ ON GREATER ZAB, AND NORTH OF MOSUL, JUST A FEW MILES BEYOND AIN SEFNI. GOI CONTROL ENDS COMPLETELY AT RAWANDUZ AND WE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THIS AREA WHICH LEADS TO HAJ UMRAN AND LOCATION OF BARZANI HEADQUARTERS. AT AIN SEFNI I HAD STRANGE EXPERIENCE OF GOING THROUGH PESH MERGA CHECKPOINT WITH IRAQI POLICE ESCORT (WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR VISIT TO YEZIDIS). IRAQI ARMY INSTALLATIONS ARE PREVALENT THROUGHOUT AREA. KURDISH PATROLS WERE HEAVILY ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND SEVERAL HAD NEW LANDROVERS. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, NO SIGNS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY, ONLY ARMED TRUCE.

2. ONE MILITARY ITEM OF INTEREST UNRELATED TO KURDS IS EXTENSIVE NEW MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BEING CONSTRUCTED JUST A FEW MILES NORTH
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OF TIKRIT (HOME TOWN OF PRESIDENT AL- BAKR AND SADDAM HUSSEIN).
THESE APPEAR TO INCLUDE SEVERAL AIRCRAFT HANGARS.

3. ON APRIL 17 USINT RECEIVED THROUGH MAIL FOR FIRST TIME COPY
OF AL- NUR NEWSPAPER OF MARCH 1973 PUBLISHED BY KURDISH REVOL-
UTIONARY PARTY (KRP). AL- NUR IS VOCALLY ANTI- KDP AND BARZANI.
IT CONTAINS NO OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION. IT ALLEGES THAT
MEMBERS OF KRP HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY DKP IN SULAYMANIHAY AND IRBIL
AND ARE BEING TORTURED AND HELD IN KDP PRISONS.

4. RECENT EDITORIALS IN KDP AT- TAAXHI ALSO SUGGEST SITUATION
BETWEEN BAATH AND KURDS REMAINS TENSE. LAST THREE EDITORIALS
CONCENTRATE ON THEME THAT FAILURE OF ARABS VIS- A- VIS IMPERIALISM
AND ZIONISM HAS RESULTED FROM LACK OF UNITY AT HOME, PARTICULARLY
ARAB- KURDISH UNITY AS PROVIDED FOR IN MARCH 1970 MANIFESTO.
AT- TAAXHI CALLS FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF KURDISH AUTONOMY AND
FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH POWER TO APPROVE
PERMANENT CONSTITUTION, HOLD ELECTIONS, AND TAKE OVER REAL
LEGISLATIVE POWER.
LOWRIE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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BEIRUT
MOSCOW
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